

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

DECEMBER 1944



VOL. 89

No. 10



Christmas Eve and the Christmas Story

TRANSLATION • PUBLICATION • DISTRIBUTION • ENCOURAGEMENT OF USE

Acknowledgments from Prisoner of War Camps and Internment Camps in the United States and Abroad

Mississippi

"We have some German prisoners of war here and I have received requests for New Testaments, or at least Bible portions in German for them. Are they available? If so, may I have one hundred copies? These prisoner patients are asking for the Testaments without any prompting on our part. I think this number would be sufficient for all our prisoners of war located in this camp, both in the hospital and out, at least for the present."

New Caledonia

"Recently I have found an outlet for such Bible material as tracts, New Testaments and some Holy Bibles; this is among the Javanese here in New Caledonia. They can understand French and some of them read Chinese; they don't read their own language so much. I wish to give them something which will be a real benefit to them; if you can do so, please send me some material in the above-mentioned languages. I would like to have enough to distribute to two thousand persons altogether."

Utah

"It has been rather difficult to estimate the number of copies needed, for we desire to ask for only the copies that will be used to good advantage. We are endeavoring to furnish an Army chaplain who is able to speak German wherever possible, and it seems best that Scriptures in the German language should be sent to the Service Command Chaplain and then redistributed to these chaplains who serve under our jurisdiction. I feel certain that the disposition of these Scriptures among the German prisoners of war will be productive of great good, for as chaplains we are endeavoring to keep faith, hope and love alive in the hearts of all soldiers, including prisoners of war, during these terrible days."

Washington

"Last week I received your shipment of twenty-five copies of German New Testaments for use in the German prisoner-of-war camp here. After the service Sunday evening I announced that anyone wishing a New Testament with Psalms could get one from me with the greetings and compliments of the American Bible Society. A long line of men came up the aisle and the twenty-five copies were gone in a short time, and others were waiting for a copy."

c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, California

"I have just this morning received a request from certain military authorities for more Japanese literature containing a universal appeal. We need, as soon as possible,

one hundred Japanese Testaments. This is just one more of the wonderful ways in which God makes great good come out of the horrible tragedy of war which, of course, could have been prevented by the Christian Church, whose numbers were great enough if only the quality of Christians had matched the quantity."

Central Pacific Area

"You will want to record for eventual record the fact that one hundred Japanese Testaments went ashore with the chaplain of a service unit before Saipan was securely in our hands—for use with the Japanese prisoners of war. They will be seed sown on soil—of what nature, only God can know. Ours is to sow the seed.

"Also, some of our American Bible Society Marine Corps New Testaments comforted our wounded on this battlefield and hospital. Also, Danish-speaking merchant seamen in the U. S. Army Transport Service are using Testaments furnished by the American Bible Society."

New Zealand

"I am writing these few lines to let you know how much we appreciate the generosity of your Society and of contributing friends in forwarding us such a fine supply of Testaments and Gospel portions in Japanese. It has been the Lord's provision in helping to meet our needs. There is a great door of opportunity here in this camp, and it is most encouraging to witness the response of many to the Christian message. Quite a few have accepted Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour, and others are very near the Kingdom. A very high percentage of the officers are now on the Lord's side, and their bright testimonies are bearing fruit.

"It is such a joy to see numbers of the prisoners regularly reading and studying the Scriptures. Truly 'the entrance of thy words giveth light.' Some of the converts have been asking for complete Bibles. We have already just six, which is not nearly sufficient. If there is any means by which we could obtain even a few, we would indeed be very grateful.

"Some of the converted officers seem already desirous of eventually becoming ambassadors for Christ among their own people. May it indeed come to pass. We covet your prayerful interest also in this work for our Lord and Master."

Maryland

"This is to acknowledge the receipt of the German New Testaments and Gospels. I am distributing this literature among the prisoners of war during services and hos-

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BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Volume 89

December 1944

Number 10

"We Have Seen the Churches"

*Secretary Taylor writes to Secretary Cropp,
now an Army Chaplain in France*

DEAR Fred:

Two years ago you wrote an article for the *Record*, "I Have Seen the Churches." This year I have visited the churches. Many people asked about you. They are proud of what you are doing and we will all be glad when you can "see the churches" again. I know that you will be glad to hear the report is still good. I have visited nineteen denominational gatherings in the past few months. It was an inspiring experience.

The churches are alert to the needs of those in service. No request is going unmet. Many times I have heard it said, "We must keep faith with our men and women in service by real Christian action at home." There is careful, realistic planning for the time when our fighting men come home. The churches are concerned with what you men are going to think about them.

The churches are alert to the new missionary opportunities. The greatest missionary program in history is in the making. Thousands of new missionaries will be sent out. The denominations are now raising huge sums of money. There is every indication that many of our finest young people will enter full-time Christian service. This number will be swelled by those returning from the armed forces. From the floors of Synods, Conventions and Assemblies, I have heard read at least a score of letters from intelligent young men who are planning to study for the Christian ministry when they return from the armed forces.

The churches seem determined to build a world of real peace. There is grim purpose to win this war, but I have not heard of one word of bitterness. He who promotes racial, religious or national hatred is going to be vigorously opposed by the churches of America. These churches are not going to lean back and hope for peace when armistice comes. The building of a just and enduring peace is not just a phrase to them—they seek to build such a peace in

the full knowledge that it must be rooted in the Gospel.

The ecumenical spirit which you mentioned in your 1941 article is still growing. There have been several highly successful mergers. More are being planned. There are many divisions in the Protestant Church, but there is little divisiveness. I sometimes wish these groups would not hold general meetings so far apart geographically, but I always find them very close together spiritually.

I can also report to you that there is an increasing appreciation of the American Bible Society. The churches like the Society's faithful and wisely executed distribution of Scriptures to service men. They appreciate our program in furnishing Scriptures to prisoners of war. They are calling on us in their new missionary plans. They are giving wonderful cooperation in our Bible Reading Program. Just now, we are having to go to them for increased help in meeting the war emergency needs. I feel certain the response will be generous. The churches are supporting the distribution of the Word with their interest, with an increasing amount of their dollars and with their prayers.

Above all, there is a deepening of spiritual life. Many times I have heard, "We are on the verge of a great religious revival." I came away from every gathering, even some closely contested elections, feeling inspired by the true Christian spirit of the churches. I can say as you did in 1941, "But with God all things are possible, and I take heart; for I have seen the churches."

Of course, I can't speak for them; this is just my report, but it is based on ample evidence. I thought you would like to know.

Most men to whom I talked would rather be doing your job than any other. So would I. But the ministers of America are not just sitting and wishing. They are on their jobs. When you make the rounds next time, you will again be inspired by the churches.

As Ever, Bob

I Have Seen the Bible at Work in Latin America

Dr. Charles S. Detweiler is Secretary for Latin American Missions of the American Baptist Home Missionary Society, and is a wise and experienced administrator. He has recently written a thought-provoking study book entitled "The Bible and Missions," published by the Judson Press.

by Charles S. Detweiler

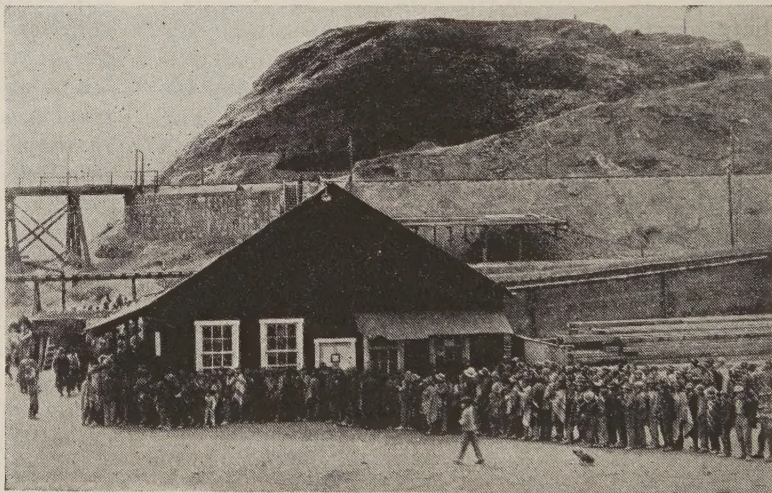
MY FIRST contact with the work of the American Bible Society was in Quito, Ecuador, on the occasion of the visit to that city, early in January 1899, of Andrew M. Milne, the agent of the Society for South America. Of my conversation with him the one thing I remember was his insistence that before a mission station be opened in a new city, Bible colporteurs should visit it. He cited the example of the inland city of Cuzco, Peru, where two missionary families attempting to open a preaching center had been driven out and compelled to return to the coast. Mr. Milne believed that if the Bible had first been circulated in Cuzco and left to do its quiet work, the ground would have been prepared for the coming of resident missionaries.

Two years later I was engaged in the interior of Ecuador in offering the Bible for sale from town to town. I found that most of the people were afraid of the Book and considered it dangerous because it came from Protestants. Many times people who had bought it or some portion of it came running after me before I left town, asking the return of their money because some one had told them that they had bought a forbidden book. Ecuador had been visited by an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1824, and again in 1837 by Isaac Wheelwright, the first representative of the American Bible Society in the Pacific coast states of South America.

After that the country had remained closed until 1896 or 1897. In two different towns of the interior of Ecuador I found Bibles probably left by Isaac Wheelwright, because they bore the 1825 imprint of the American Bible Society. These Bibles were cherished in the homes of the two families who had them, and in both I was received without fear, although the rest of the town was decidedly unfriendly to me. I have a vivid recollection of the second of these places, far off the main highway

leading from the coast to the capital. The appearance of a foreigner was most unusual, and a small crowd of men and boys surrounded me in the public square while a priest disputed with me concerning the Bible and tried to buy one for the purpose of burning it then and there. A young man stepped out from the crowd and befriended me, leading me to his home, and afterwards to a few friends who bought Bibles from me. The secret of his friendliness was that he had one of these 1825 Bibles, inherited from his father and grandfather.

Twenty years ago a Baptist missionary in San



Pay day at the Esperanza mine, Peru, 14,380 feet altitude

Salvador published a small monthly paper which he sent free to persons on a list of names, secured as best he could in every town in the republic. In this paper he advertised the Bible and certain evangelical books. To encourage the reading of the Bible he published in each issue of his paper five simple questions on Bible history, telling in what book of the Bible the answers could be found and offering to print in the paper the names of all who sent him correct answers. In this way many people became

interested in reading the Bible. Among these was a small group in the port of La Unión on the Gulf of Fonseca. It was not the principal port of the republic, but occasional visitors passed through it, among them the writer of this article. Having to spend the day there waiting for a train, I met two men who, learning of my mission, asked me to hold a meeting for which they would gather a group of "believers"—the term used in Latin America for awakened souls not yet members of an evangelical church. A room in a vacant house was prepared for this meeting. There were chairs for only half of the thirty people who assembled, but that did not affect the interest of those who followed the reading and exposition of the Bible. The little group had their Bibles with them. They wanted to have regular services and petitioned that a pastor be sent to them. At the time this was not possible. Undiscouraged, they went ahead with their plans for acquiring a lot for a church; and eventually, with help from abroad, they were enabled to secure a meeting house as well as a lot, and finally to organize a church and obtain the part-time services of a native pastor.

On one of my visits to Mexico some years ago, I spent a day at our little church in the town of Tehuacan and talked with an illiterate Indian woman, a member of that church, who told me how her life had been changed by acquiring a Bible. In her case it was a large Roman Catholic Bible with notes, which her parish priest had asked her to buy from him. Evidently he was in need of money and urged her to buy this, recommending it as a holy book which could save her soul. For it he asked the equivalent of one hundred dollars in our money. It was a very large, well-bound, costly book, but the price had been excessive. This Indian woman had a small farm and had sold part of her land in order to buy this book. She could not read but had a brother who could, who began laboriously to read through the volume for her. They had progressed through the Book of Genesis and part of the Book of Exodus, when, one day as she passed along the street, she heard singing from a certain house. The Baptist pastor of Tehuacan, visiting this village on his bicycle some ten miles from his home, had found a friendly house for a little gathering. This Indian woman went in and listened. To her great surprise the pastor read from the Book of Exodus a chapter which her brother had recently read to her. So, since he read from the same book, she stayed and kept coming, until she was one of the first of a small group receiving baptism at the hands of this pastor.

While she never learned to read, she sent a niece to a mission school in Puebla, who not only learned to read but continued her studies in a government normal school, finally returning to her native village as a government teacher. More than twenty years have passed, but the small church that had its be-

ginnings with the Indian woman and her friends is still a vital force in the life of that village. They have their own chapel and regular services and are ministered to by the pastor from Tehuacan. In all the countries of Latin America there are many such scattered groups of evangelical Christians, dependent



Quechua Indians of Cuzco, Peru

largely upon their own volunteer lay leadership and held together by a common interest in Bible study and Sunday school. For the most part they are dependent for preaching on the pastor of a larger church who visits them not oftener than once a week. They have learned to worship God by singing hymns, by committing to memory verses of Scripture, and by prayer. To help them in the study of the Word their teachers are furnished with lesson quarterlies in Spanish, but they are primarily dependent upon the Bible, which they carry with them to church. As the evangelical church grows in Latin America the demand for Bibles grows; and vice versa, as the Bible is more widely circulated by colporteurs, the number of evangelical churches increases. At the present time the evangelical churches of Mexico are experiencing a quiet revival. Two of the leading denominations have movements of advance directed by laymen. It is significant that the Salvation Army has at the same time enlisted the churches in many cities in a campaign of house-to-house visitation, offering Scripture portions for sale, with the result that the sale of Scriptures has increased from 445,370 copies in 1942 to 1,116,324 in 1943. "So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

TO EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

The Bible and the War

Excerpts from a Radio Address

by Francis C. Stifler

BELIEVE me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed," said General MacArthur to a secretary of the Bible Society in Australia.

In so speaking, the great four-star general was hold-

ing a great revolt against the king. Cromwell was a Puritan. Nobody knows how large his army was. It was, of course, tiny compared to the huge mobilizations of our time. But we do know what kind of men composed it. They were men who were out to reform England, if they must die in the attempt. The Puritan had discovered a power in the Bible which he now proposed to use to create a new kind of England.

The old Puritans were not perfect. Nevertheless, in the days of Oliver Cromwell they turned the life of England toward a new conception of statehood. Plato had said that a man ought to live for the state. The medievalists had said he ought to live for the church. The Tudor and Stuart kings of England were declaring that he ought to live for the king. But the Puritans insisted that man must live for God,—for God as revealed in the Bible.

So we are not surprised to read that Cromwell's army went forth to battle singing psalms, nor to learn that Cromwell equipped every soldier in his army with Scriptures.

Cromwell's "souldiers Pocket Bible" was a book of only sixteen pages, containing passages of Scripture designed, as it quaintly stated on the title page, to equip a "souldier to fight the Lords Battels, both before the fight, during the fight and after the fight." The passages are grouped under several heads such as, "A souldier must not doe wickedly," "A souldier must pray before he goe to fight," and "A souldier must consider that sometimes Gods people have the wirst in battell as well as Gods enemies."

Certainly the Bible is playing a greater part in the conduct of this war than in any that has preceded it. The American Bible Society has been supplying pocket Testaments to our Army and

Navy ever since the war with Mexico almost a century ago, and so far in this war, regardless of what other service organizations and the Government are doing, is now turning out its fifth million of these little books.



Photo Signal Corps U. S. Army

Pvt. Rodney C. Jacoby, Jerseyville, Ill., soldier now at Camp Grant, is shown here reading an 80-year-old Bible, which was carried through the Civil War and the First World War. Pvt. Jacoby received the Bible the day he entered the army from a friend, a veteran of World War I, who in turn had received it from a veteran of the Civil War.

ing to the best in the military tradition of England and America.

It was just 301 years ago, when England was going wild about the Bible, which had just been granted to her common people, that Oliver Cromwell led the

This, however, is the first war in which the Bible Society has been working also for the soldiers of other countries. The Society recently shipped over 80,000 Testaments in Spanish for the use of the soldiers of our Latin-American allies.

That the Bible is in this war moving still farther afield from the Anglo-Saxon tradition was revealed in one of the news dispatches describing the momentous meeting of President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in Cairo last December. In the cablegram from one of the American correspondents there it was stated that the Generalissimo arose early every morning, during those crowded days of intense activity in Egypt, in order to devote an uninterrupted half hour to Bible reading and to prayer. One can envisage the day when a pocket Testament will be a part of the equipment of China's armies as it has been for three hundred years in England.

But I know that some are still wondering whether our men are really reading their Bibles. We have the finest corps of chaplains the world has ever seen, every one of them a volunteer. These chaplains are commending the Book, interpreting it and supplying the men with handy copies. One airman who has gone on fifty-one bombing missions in the South Seas says he has read his Testament through eight times. He has discovered what every honest, earnest Bible reader has always found: that the Bible never fails to help one, no matter how often he reads his favorite passages.

Here is the testimony of a naval officer whose vessel took part in the battle of Kula Bay. He says, and I give you the unexpurgated quotation:

"I went to my room and hit the sack for three hours, and read my Bible. I read the 23rd and the

91st Psalms over and over . . . 'Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; . . . A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.' Those are comforting words. When I went on deck I saw men thumbing worn pages of their little Bibles. Toughened old seadogs, veterans of many battles and many a dice game, were unashamedly praying. Some listened with solemn concentration while others read aloud."

It was midnight, and at an airdrome some twenty R.A.F pilots were waiting for the word to take the air for the night's operations. There was the usual joking and razzing common to keyed-up men. Then a swarthy Malayan pilot officer took from his pocket a New Testament and began to read aloud the story of the rolling away of the stone, and the appearance of Christ to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus:

"And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

"And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

"And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them."

At first a few of the airman's comrades continued to joke, but gradually the room became silent; all were listening. When the officer finished he closed the book and said: "That's a lovely 'bedtime story.' If I should come down tonight I should like to feel that those thoughts were my last."

A few minutes later those pilots filed out to their waiting aircraft, some of them never to return.

Friends, why shouldn't our men be reading their Bibles? They are!

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Bible Sharers Club

SINCE the inauguration of the *Bible Sharers Club* last April, twenty-one friends of the American Bible Society have qualified to receive the silver pin award as this issue goes to press.

This emblem goes to anyone who has succeeded in securing gifts from others totaling \$25 or more. The Society takes pleasure in welcoming this fine group of earnest Christian workers into what we hope will be a growing fellowship across the country.

Mrs. M. R. Anderson, Horse Shoe, N. C.
Mr. Sidney Anderson, Mayfield Heights, Ohio
Mr. J. D. Anthony, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Mrs. C. H. Bailey, Mooers, N. Y.
Mrs. Barbara K. Cornwall, South Wales, N. Y.
Miss Fannie Diffenderfer, Elizabethtown, Pa.
Mrs. Helen J. Fisher, Sewell, N. J.
Leithel Hanawalt, Logansport, Ind.
Mr. Loren House, Jr., West Winfield, N. Y.
Mr. Clarence A. Jenks, Seattle, Wash.
Mrs. Florence E. Johnson, Long Beach, Calif.

Mr. John E. Johnson, Long Beach, Calif.
Betty Kerr, East Canton, Ohio
Mrs. J. W. Kerr, East Canton, Ohio
Marian Kerr, East Canton, Ohio
Miss Naomi Light, Lawrence, Mass.
Mrs. G. W. McQuiddy, Jacksonville, Fla.
Mr. Henri W. Reeg, Garfield, N. J.
Miss Ina Smith, South Hammond, N. Y.
Miss Elva Vasby, Cambridge, Wisc.
Mr. Henry A. Willecke, Salem, Oregon

Emergency Campaign Plans Take Shape

IN THE November issue of the *Record* our readers were advised of the launching of the War Emergency Fund for \$2,932,600 to cover the war and postwar needs of the Society for the next four years.

These needs fall, naturally, into four main categories:

1. The supplying of Scriptures to the men and women of our own armed forces;
2. The needs of civilians in Europe and elsewhere made destitute by the war;
3. The serving of prisoners of war, wherever they may be interned, and to whatever nation they may belong;
4. The largest possible program of publishing Scriptures for the occupied countries of Europe and elsewhere, not only for their current needs where opportunity is afforded to meet them, but also for the wider use of the Scriptures, immediately their freedom is restored to them.

It is estimated that for all purposes approximately 10,000,000 Bibles, Testaments and Scripture portions will be required. In the preliminary announcement the bones of the Campaign effort were revealed. We are pleased to report that these bones, not unlike those in Ezekiel's vision, are now covered with flesh. A group of special representatives has been added to the Bible Society staff to conduct this campaign. These men are all churchmen and have had campaign experience. The National Director for the Campaign will be Mr. Blake Hoover of Springfield, Mass.

The Campaign strategy involves the establishment of thirteen areas throughout the country, with an Area Director responsible for the campaign quota for each area. These areas, together with the names of the Directors, are:

Area	Director
1. New England	Edwin H. Bookmyer, Boston, Mass.
2. Metropolitan New York	J. Chapman Bradley and H. Walter Riland (To be appointed)
3. Upstate New York	Charles W. Crist, Philadelphia, Pa.
4. Western New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, D. C.	John L. Hunter, Charlotte, N. C.
5. North and South Carolina, Florida	B. G. Alexander, Atlanta, Ga.
6. Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky	David M. Howell, Pittsburgh, Pa.
7. Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Eastern Ohio	(To be appointed)
8. Michigan, Western Ohio	Alfred C. Estes, Chicago, Illinois
9. Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota	Ralph R. Wolf, Kansas City, Mo.
10. Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado	

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 11. San Francisco, northern California, Oregon, Washington | F. A. Crosby, San Francisco, Calif. |
| 12. Southern California, Arizona | Edwin R. Gobrecht, Pasadena, Calif. |
| 13. Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana | Edgar M. Brown, Dallas, Texas |
- (States not included here will be canvassed by mail)

Campaign plans and committees are already being established in the various areas. In the metropolitan New York area a dinner of 1,600 prominent civic and church leaders has been scheduled for January 4, at the Commodore Hotel. A luncheon for the leading ministers of this same area and a tea for the leading church women have already taken place. Business men's luncheons and other meetings are being held at which one of the Society's splendid motion pictures showing the war needs of the Society, will be shown. Our readers are familiar with these pictures: "The Book for the World of Tomorrow;" "The Bible in a Warring World;" "At Work with the Word." (These films are available for showings to church groups. Contact your local Bible Society Secretary for complete information, or write in to us.)

The strategy of the campaign will be simply to let the public know that the Society is planning to serve as their agent in sending Scriptures to the places in the world where they are most needed. To do this, boxes of the actual Bibles, gospels and portions will be made up for display, and people will be given the opportunity to send a \$10 "box," a \$100 "box," a \$1,000 "box," or, if desired, a carload.

A typical assortment is shown in the following table:

	\$10 Box	\$100 Box	\$1,000 Box
<i>For the Armed Forces:</i>			
Bibles	4	40	400
Testaments	15	150	1,500
Gospels	13	130	1,300
<i>For Prisoners of War:</i>			
Bibles or Testaments	1	10	100
Gospels	2	20	200
<i>For the Liberated Areas:</i>			
Bibles and Testaments	4	40	400
Gospels	5	50	500
	<u>44</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>4,400</u>

Of course, the packages are not shipped in this way, as they are packed and shipped according to order by the Chaplain or the American Bible Society Representative abroad, but this effective arrangement of the books serves to help us see the actual Scriptures our gifts provide.

Our readers will be interested to know that the first \$10,000 gift has already been secured in the Metropolitan New York area.



Official U. S. Navy photograph

QUONSET "CATHEDRAL"—Navy officers and enlisted men wait for service to begin in the church on Eniwetok in the Marshalls group. Topped by a spire, the main body of the church is in the "Quonset period." Religious rites were first held in a tent on Eniwetok.

Universal Bible Sunday

UNIVERSAL Bible Sunday for 1944 has been expanded into Nationwide Bible Reading. It is hoped, however, that every pastor will devote Universal Bible Sunday, December 10, to laying upon the hearts and consciences of his people the importance of the reading and distribution of the Word of God. Brochures of other years and Board of Managers' reports of the Society's activities during this year are available upon request.

Each minister who has ordered Nationwide Bible Reading material has received a clip sheet containing a great deal of information about the present activities of Scripture dis-

tribution throughout the world. On it appears the suggestion that he use this material in his Universal Bible Sunday sermon.

Nationwide Bible Reading does not replace Universal Bible Sunday. The Bible reading is a special activity and the usual observance of Universal Bible Sunday is at the very heart of Nationwide Bible Reading.

Certainly any minister can take one year's file of the *Bible Society Record* and find a vast amount of information to be used in preparing a great sermon on the Bible in the world today and its place in the hearts of the people of every parish.

Nationwide Bible Reading

"MY FIRST contact in giving a bookmark folder was with the farmer who brings our produce. As a result of our conversation, he promised that he and his young wife would start to work again in the Young People's group of their rural church." So writes a lady from Wisconsin.

A man said the other day, "I am a church officer, but I had never asked anyone to come to church or read the Bible. Certainly I had never talked to a man about his spiritual life. I was afraid I would look foolish. It seemed quite natural to give your bookmarks to a number of men in the office, and to my surprise, they were grateful and began to talk with me about things of the spirit which we had never dared mention before."

A lieutenant colonel and his family are reading the passages daily. These and thousands of similar experiences show what Nationwide Bible Reading is meaning to America. Each day brings more letters of appreciation to our desks.

The plan is simple. One hundred and six thousand ministers and chaplains were asked to select the thirty-three passages which they regarded as most helpful in these days of stress. These were tabulated, and the thirty-three receiving the greatest number of votes were printed on a little bookmark, of which ten million are being distributed.

A beautiful poster was prepared and is appearing in cities all over America.

A half million V-mail letters were printed on which the thirty-three selections were listed. These have been mailed overseas by friends and loved ones in this country.

The secular press, the radio, the religious press, ministerial associations, commercial concerns and local churches are all giving valiant help.

The staff of the American Bible Society is working long, hard hours to get out supplies. From every indication we shall run out of material soon. Local communities are invited to reproduce the thirty-three passages for distribution among their own constituents.

No one can know the direct value of Nationwide Bible Reading. It can not be measured now. It can never be measured; for it is impossible to calculate the working of the Holy Spirit in men's hearts when thousands and perhaps millions of them turn to a daily reading of God's Word.

There is still time to take part. While the Nationwide Bible Reading ends at Christmas, plans are available to continue daily reading throughout the rest of 1944 and the whole of 1945.

* * *

Helpful Bible Passages for Daily Reading

by members of the armed forces and people at home, selected by a nationwide canvass of pastors and chaplains as the most helpful in times like these:

Thanksgiving, Nov. 23....	Psalm 103
Friday.....	John 14
Saturday.....	Psalm 23
Sunday, November 26....	Psalm 1
Monday.....	Matthew 5
Tuesday.....	Romans 8
Wednesday.....	I Corinthians 13
Thursday.....	Psalm 91
Friday.....	Matthew 6
Saturday.....	John 3
Sunday, December 3.....	Isaiah 40
Monday.....	Psalm 46
Tuesday.....	Romans 12
Wednesday.....	Hebrews 11
Thursday.....	Matthew 7
Friday.....	John 15
Saturday.....	Psalm 27
Sunday, December 10.....	Isaiah 55
Monday.....	Psalm 121
Tuesday.....	Philippians 4
Wednesday.....	Revelation 21
Thursday.....	Luke 15
Friday.....	Ephesians 6
Saturday.....	John 17
Sunday, December 17.....	Isaiah 53
Monday.....	I Corinthians 15
Tuesday.....	John 10
Wednesday.....	Psalm 51
Thursday.....	Psalm 37
Friday.....	John 1
Saturday.....	Revelation 22
Sunday, December 24.....	Psalm 90
Christmas, Dec. 25.....	Luke 2

All passages are in the order of the tabulated votes except those assigned to Thanksgiving, Christmas and Sundays.

To complete the reading to New Year's, read Joshua 1; Psalm 19; Matthew 11; Exodus 20; 1 John 1; Hebrews 12. If you desire a schedule of readings for 1945, send request to Dept. BR., American Bible Society.

To Members of the Armed Forces: If the passages listed are not included in your Testament, borrow a Bible or ask the Chaplain to read them at Thanksgiving or Sunday services as indicated.

Somewhere in the Gilbert Islands

VOLUNTARY contributions by a group of United States Marines, stationed on a Central Pacific atoll with a Fourth Marine Air Wing unit, are being used to educate numerous natives at a missionary school.

The natives, selected by their elders, are sent to another island of the Gilberts for a year's training. At the completion of the course they return to this atoll to instruct their fellow villagers.

A year ago the natives were unaware there was such a military organization as the Marines. At that time a Jap garrison ruled them.

Then came Tarawa. The Nipponese lost their stranglehold on these islands. Other American successes quickly followed, and subsequently a Marine assault force landed on this atoll.

Since their arrival the Marines have had amicable relations with the natives. Many of the Gilbertese have been employed on American installations and have proved to be honest, friendly and sincere. Discussing means to assist the natives at an informal meeting conducted by Navy Chaplain Lt. Harold A. MacNeill, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, a group of Leathernecks offered several suggestions. "Why not send some of them to the training school," said one. "It won't be a heavy expense and we ought to be able to meet it." His thought was readily accepted and plans were formulated whereby this could be accomplished.

"From a missionary who has spent many years on these islands, we learned a native could be provided with board, transportation and a year's education for the small sum of twenty dollars," Chaplain MacNeill said.

"The boys started a little fund and it has grown until it now totals more than \$200. Six natives have already been delegated to attend the school and we have a lengthy list of applicants. The school is officially known as the 'London Missionary Society Training Institute.' It is located at a place called Peru, some distance from here. The natives call the institute 'Rongo Rongo,' which literally means 'Report of Going Out of Good News.' This loosely is their translation of the Gospel.

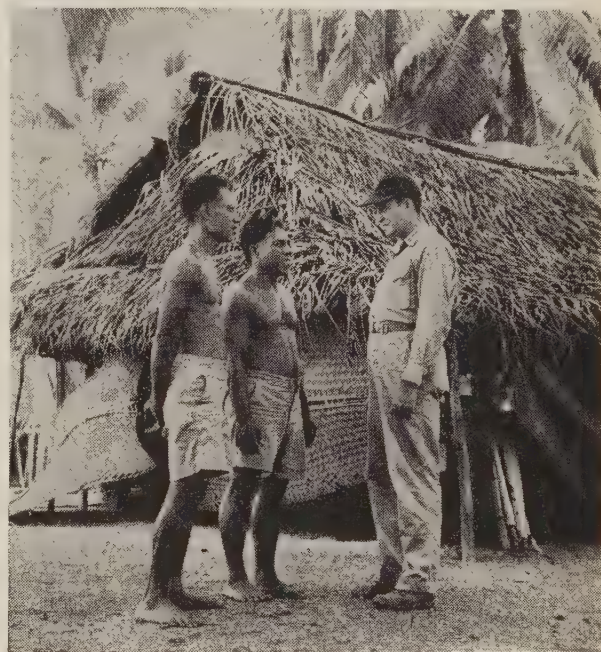
"The Reverend and Mrs. George Eastman, who have done missionary work in these islands for the past thirty years, direct the institute. Since the outbreak of the war Mr. Eastman has been designated a chaplain in the British Navy, and the Society's two hundred ton inter-island ship, the *John Williams V*, has been commissioned a vessel in His Majesty's Navy."

Chaplain MacNeill further explained the *John Williams V* carries medical and religious supplies

to the Society's scattered missions in the Central Pacific.

"The voluntary contributions of these Marines and their unselfish motive certainly are concrete evidence they have not forgotten the charitable instincts which were inculcated in them in their early home lives," Chaplain MacNeill said.

One of the most popular officers at this Fourth Wing base, Chaplain MacNeill has been with Marine



Official U. S. Marine Corps Photo

Navy Lieutenant Harold A. MacNeill, a member of the Chaplain Corps, on leave from the Bethany Baptist Church, Pawtucket, R. I., where he was pastor, discusses methods of selecting natives who will be sent to a nearby island for a year's education in a missionary school. The two natives in the picture are among the elders who will choose the students. The chaplain is moderator of a group of Fourth Marine Air Wing men who are voluntarily contributing to the natives' education.

aviation units for the past 15 months. A native of Massachusetts, he formerly served as pastor of the Kensington Congregational Church, Kensington, N. H., and was director of religious education at the Ashland Federated Church, Ashland, Mass. Before entering the service last year he was pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church, Pawtucket, R. I., from which he is now on leave.

Shipments of Gilbertese Bibles and Testaments have been made by the American Bible Society as well as shipments in other Pacific Island languages.



The Society sent 500 Testaments to Chaplain Howard W. Rusthoy at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. These were displayed at a dedication service in the "Chapel of the Rock" attended by nearly 200 soldiers.

At the conclusion of the sermon a dedicatory prayer was offered, after which 115 Testaments were presented to soldiers who did not have one.

From Captain C. Gulbranson, U. S. Navy, comes this letter of appreciation:

"Please accept my thanks for the engraved pulpit Bible which has been received here at the U. S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Fort Pierce, Florida. It shall be dedicated by our Chaplain in a public service in the near future.

"The American Bible Society is doing much for our men in the armed forces and it gives me great pleasure to accept this gift on behalf of my Command.

(Continued from inside front cover)

pital visitation. I am sure that this literature will be of inestimable value for the spiritual advantage and extension of God's kingdom among the prisoners of war."

Colorado

"I could easily use four hundred German Testaments with Psalms and find eager readers for all of them. It seems to me that here is your opportunity to do something effective for the spiritual rehabilitation of Germany's warrior youth."

Wisconsin

"A new lot has been brought here. At the request of the Army captain, I preached to them yesterday. These men fairly begged for Testaments and I promised to try to get some for them. This time I will need at least forty copies."

"The spiritual welfare of our officers and men is most important to the successful prosecution of the war and I assure you the Bible is greatly appreciated and will be used and cared for in the interest of the officers and men of this Command.

"The British and Foreign Bible Society of Canada and Newfoundland with offices at Toronto, Canada, distributed 440,509 copies of the Scriptures last year, including 192,055 for special war purposes, it was revealed here.

"Since September, 1939, 641,440 presentation New Testaments have been issued to the armed forces through the Society's chaplaincy department.

"In 1943 the Society's annual gift to its parent society in London, England, stood at \$210,000 as against \$85,000 the previous year—the increase being accounted for not only by additional contributions from every auxiliary in Canada and Newfoundland, but by unexpected legacies."

The following interesting item appeared in "The Inland Printer"

"The large Bible lying on the table in the outer reception room leading to the private office of a successful industrialist attracted the attention of a visitor.

"'Why the Bible in so conspicuous a place?' asked the visitor.

"'I personally know the value of its divine messages to give me poise, comfort and encouragement amidst the stress and strains of everyday life,' was the answer. 'I placed the Bible where it is that it might be a testimony to visitors that they can find refreshment by opening and reading it.'"

Missouri

"The problem of reading matter for these prisoners is a serious one, and I find that there are no bans on reading the Scriptures. Already we have had a number of requests for Bibles, Testaments or other religious reading material in German."

Mississippi

"As a chaplain in this Army camp because of the fact that I speak German, there has been given me the duty of conducting services for German war prisoners. Some have asked for German-English Testaments or Bibles. The main reason perhaps in their minds is that such a book would aid them in learning English, which many of them want to do; however, it would get them to read the Bible. I have found also that many of them are really religious. While these men are here and have very little to do will be a fine time to interest many of them in the Word of God."

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*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

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House, Park Avenue and
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WHEN THE WAR ENDS

HOW will they Read?

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